

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 26586 141641Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 L-03 IGA-01 AID-05 MC-02 OMB-01 /042 W

----- 099189

P R 141622Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4144

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CD, US, FR

SUBJECT:MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUEST FROM CHAD

REF: (A) STATE 243319; B) PARIS 25399

1. OUR ANSWERS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S QUESTIONS ARE KEYED TO PARAGRAPH TWO OF REF A.

A. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLDEGE, THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE SATUS OF FRENCH MILITARY ADVISORS FROM THAT REPORTED IN REF B I.E., THE CHADIANS HAVE NOT ASKED FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL AND THE FRENCH DO NOT NOW INTEND UNILATERALLY TO WITHDRAW THEM. SHOULD THE CHADIANS ASK FOR THEIR DEPARTURE, THE FRENCH PROBABLY WOULD NOT APOSE THE REQUEST.

B. UNTIL THE CLAUSTRE AFFAIR HEATED UP, THE QUAI TOOK QUIET SATISFACTION FROM THE IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY MALLOUM'S REPLACEMTN OF TOMBALBAYE. IT VIEWED THE NEW LEADER AS SOMONE WITH WHOM IT COULD DEAL PRAGMATICALLY, A BALANCED MAN WILLING TO ACCEPT CONTINUED FRENCH PREDOMINANCE IN TRADE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, MINERAL (ESPECIALY URANIUM) PROSPECTING AND EXTRACTION AS THE QUID PRO QUO FOR SUBSTANTIAL FRENCH ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT. WE BELIEVE THE FRENCH RETAIN THIS FAVORABLE JUDGEMENT OF MALLOUM AS WELL AS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 26586 141641Z

THEIR DESIRE TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN CHAD'S ECONOMY, AND

PARTICULARLY, TO HAVE ACCESS TO CHADIAN RAW MATERIALS. MOREOVER, THEY CONSIDER THEIR POSITION IN CHAD USEFUL FOR STEMMING THE SPREAD OF RADICAL NATIONALISM FROM LIBYA AND ALGERIA TO CENTRAL AFRICA AND FOR LIMITING SOVIET (AND POSSIBLY CHINESE) INFLUENCE IN THE AREA. AS LONG AS IT REMAINS IN DJIBOUTI, FRANCE ALSO HAS AN INTEREST (PROBABLY DIMINISHING) IN CHAD FOR REFUELING PURPOSES. IN LIGHT OF THESE ATTITUDES AND INTERESTS, THE FRENCH CURRENTLY SEEM WILLING TO ACCEPT A GREAT DEAL OF CRITICISM FROM THE MALLOUM GOVERNMENT IN THE EXPECTATION THAT AFTER THE DENOUEMENT OF THE CLAUSTRE AFFAIR, SMOOTH BILATERAL RELATIONS CAN BE REESTABLISHED QUICKLY. SHOULD CHAD GO TOO FAR IN MAKING LIFE DIFFICULT FOR THEM, HOWEVER, THE FRENCH HAVE NO VITAL INTERESTS IN THE COUNTRY THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO DEFEND AT ALL COSTS AND, WITH A VIEW TO PROTECTING THEIR OTHER, MORE IMPORTANT INTERESTS ON THE CONTINENT, MIGHT DECIDE TO REDUCE THEIR PRESENCE SIGNIFICANTLY.

C. THE FRENCH STILL EXPECT TO RIDE OUT THE CLAUSTRE AFFAIR AND WOULD PROBABLY CONSIDER AN EARLY U.S. OFFER TO MEET CHADIAN MILITARY REQUESTS UNHELPFUL TO CURRENT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS WITH CHAD. IF, AS AT THE MOMENT SEEMS UNLIKELY, THE FRENCH ULTIMATELY DECIDE THAT THEY HAVE NO FUTURE IN CHAD, THEY MIGHT WELCOME SUCH A U.S. OFFER, PREFERRING A FRIENDLY WESTERN INFLUENCE IN CHAD TO OTHER ALTERNATIVES. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ONCE MADAME CLAUSTRE'S FATE IS DECIDED, THE FRENCH IN REASSESSING THEIR POLICY WILL CONCLUDE THAT AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE A USEFUL COMPLEMENT TO THEIR OWN AID, MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR FRANCE TO LOWER ITS PROFILE WITHOUT ENDANGERING ITS INTERESTS IN CHAD. IN SUCH CASE, TOO, AN AMERICAN OFFER MIGHT BE WELCOMED, PROVIDED FRENCH ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT BE DIVERTED TO PAY FOR U.S. EQUIPMENT.  
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TROOP REDUCTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PARIS26586  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750355-1150  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751055/aaaabxfb.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 243319, 75 PARIS 25399  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUEST FROM CHAD  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, CD, US, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006